

**DAMAGE SURVEY REPORT (DSR)**  
**Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Recovery**

**Section 1A**

Date of Report: 04/05/2006

DSR Number: 093-05-004K Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**NRCS Entry Only**

Eligible: YES ☒ NO ☐  
Approved: YES ☒ NO ☐  
Funding Priority Number (from Section 4) 3e  
Limited Resource Area: YES ☐ NO ☒

**Section 1B Sponsor Information**

Sponsor Name: St. James Parish (Jody Chenier- Director of Operations)

Address: (5800 LA 44) P.O.Box 106

City/State/Zip: Convent, LA 70723 70723-0106

Telephone Number: (225) 562-2260

Fax: (225) 562-2279

**Section 1C Site Location Information**

County: St. James State: LA Congressional District: 3

Latitude: 29.91816 Longitude: 90.66495 Section 19, 23, 24 Township: T14S Range: 17E  
29.93155 90.70262

UTM Coordinates: 15

Drainage Name: Vacherie Canal Reach: upper (1)

Damage Description: Debris is reducing the capacity of ditch. Debris consists of mostly trees.

**Section 1D Site Evaluation**

All answers in this Section must be YES in order to be eligible for EWP assistance.

Site Eligibility	YES	NO	Remarks
Damage was a result of a natural disaster?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hurricane Katrina - August 29, 2005
Recovery measures would be for runoff retardation or soil erosion prevention?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Threat to life and/or property?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Event caused a sudden impairment in the watershed?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Imminent threat was created by this event?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
For structural repairs, not repaired twice within ten years?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Site Defensibility</b>			
Economic, environmental, and social documentation adequate to warrant action (Go to pages 3, 4, 5 and 6 ***)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Proposed action technically viable? (Go to Page 9 ***)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Have all the appropriate steps been taken to ensure that all segments of the affected population have been informed of the EWP program and its possible effects? YES ☒ NO ☐

Start: 29.91816, 90.66495 End: 29.93155, 9070262

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Statutory

\*\* Regulation

\*\*\* DSR Pages 3 through 5 are required to support the decisions recorded on this summary page. If additional space is needed on this or any other page in this form, add appropriate pages.

**Section 1E Proposed Action**

Describe the preferred alternative from Findings: Section 5 A:

The proposed action is the preferred alternative. The proposed action is the least costly alternative that achieves the restoration objectives, maximizes environmental benefits, and is socially acceptable.

Total installation cost identified in this DSR: Section 3: \$                     

**Section 1F NRCS State Office Review and Approval**

Reviewed By:                     

State EWP Program Manager

Date Reviewed: 8/21/06

Approved By:                     

State Conservationist

Date Approved: 8/27/06

**PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT**

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR 624 (EWP) and Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950, Public Law 81-516, 33 U.S.C. 701b-1; and Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, Public Law 95334, as amended by Section 382, of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127, 16 U.S.C. 2203. EWP, through local sponsors, provides emergency measures for runoff retardation and erosion control to areas where a sudden impairment of a watershed threatens life or property. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the administration of EWP to the Chief or NRCS on state, tribal and private lands.

Signing this form indicates the sponsor concurs and agrees to provide the regional cost-share to implement the EWP recovery measure(s) determined eligible by NRCS under the terms and conditions of the program authority. Failure to provide a signature will result in the applicant being unable to apply for or receive a grant the applicable program authorities. Once signed by the sponsor, this information may not be provided to other agencies. IRS, Department of Justice, or other State or Federal Law Enforcement agencies, and in response to a court or administrative tribunal.

The provisions of criminal and civil fraud statutes, including 18 U.S.C. 286, 287, 371, 641, 651, 1001; 15 U.S.C. 714m; and 31 U.S.C. 3729 may also be applicable to the information provided. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0578-0030. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 117/1.96 minutes/hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, field reviews, gathering, designing, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information.

**USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Civil Rights Statement of Assurance**

The program or activities conducted under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in the Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. They will also be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR 15, 15a, and 15b), which provide that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

## Section 2 Environmental Evaluation

2A Resource Concerns	2B Existing Condition	2C Alternative Designation		
		Proposed Action	No Action	Alternative
		Working from within the channel, remove storm debris from the channel and chip or dispose in surrounding swamp areas.	Leave all debris and large debris in the channel	Remove and dispose debris from the channel using both sides of the channel for access.
		2D Effects of Alternatives		
<b>Soil</b>				
Bank erosion	disturbed soils from tree falls, and uprooting 20 tons/acre	removal of debris will allow reveg and reduce loss 5T./ac	20 tons/acre	5 tons/acre
Soil quality	Soil quality reduced	Soil quality improved	Soil quality reduced	Soil quality improved
<b>Water</b>				
<b>Downstream water rights</b>	Will not have to drain canal to conduct debris removal.	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Water Quality	increased sedimentation due to uprooted trees	will allow for revegetation and decreased sedimentation	increased sedimentation due to uprooted trees	will allow for revegetation and decreased sedimentation
Pollutants (Oil, etc)	No affect	Short term increase possible due to work in stream	No affect	Short term increase possible due to work in stream
Overall Stream Health	manmade canal - SVAP not applicable	manmade canal - SVAP not applicable	manmade canal - SVAP not applicable	manmade canal - SVAP not applicable
<b>Air</b>				
particulate matter/dust	no affect	slight temporary increase during debris removal	no effect	slight temporary increase during debris removal
<b>Plant</b>				
aquatic plants	100% cover of floating aquatics - most non-native	no expected change in floating aquatic community or amount	100% cover of floating aquatics - most non-native	no expected change in floating aquatic community or amount
Riparian plants	some downed trees impacting existing riparian veg	debris removal will allow regrowth of riparian veg	some downed trees impacting existing riparian veg	debris removal will allow regrowth of riparian veg
<b>Animal</b>				
Aquatic habitat	no affect	no affect	no affect	no affect
<b>Other</b>				
Aesthetics	Poor due to clutter	Improved by debris removal	Poor due to clutter	Improved by debris removal
Vector habitat	No affect	No affect	No affect	No affect

**Section 2E Special Environmental Concerns**

Resource Consideration	Existing Condition	Alternatives and Effects		
		Proposed Action	No Action	Alternative
Clean Water Act Waters of the U.S.	CWA Jurisdiction. No CWA permit will be needed if debris is left in channel.	CWA permit required	CWA Jurisdiction. No CWA permit will be needed if debris is left in channel.	CWA permit required
Coastal Zone Management Areas	Within the coastal zone.	Consistency authorization required	Project area is located within the CZMA, no work will be conducted.	Consistency authorization required
Coral Reefs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cultural Resources	None observed on-site. Cross reference with state leader.	None observed on-site. Cross reference with state leader.	None observed on-site. Cross reference with state leader.	None observed on-site. Cross reference with state leader.
Endangered and Threatened Species	(FOTG Section II) (Federal/State Lists) 4 species known, Bald Eagle sited	4 species known, Bald Eagle sited - no impact	4 species known, Bald Eagle sited	4 species known, Bald Eagle sited - no impact
Environmental Justice	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Essential Fish Habitat	N/A (Referenced with NOAA) St. James Parish debris removal	N/A (Referenced with NOAA)	N/A (Referenced with NOAA)	N/A (Referenced with NOAA)
Fish and Wildlife Coordination	State level review by project type with USFWS & LDWF; Consultation not required for debris removal.	State level review by project type with USFWS & LDWF; Consultation not required for debris removal.	State level review by project type with USFWS & LDWF; Consultation not required for debris removal.	State level review by project type with USFWS&LDWF; Consultation required.
Floodplain Management	located in 100-year floodplain and function is impaired.	Improved function to drainage channel by restoring pre-storm hydraulic capacity.	100-year floodplain function is impaired.	Improved function to drainage channel by restoring pre-storm capacity.
Invasive Species	100% cover of floating aquatics - approximately 95% are invasive	No expected change in amount of aquatics or percent of invasives	100% cover of floating aquatics - approximately 95% are invasive	No expected change in amount of aquatics or percent of invasives
Migratory Birds	Food and habitat slightly reduced due to debris covering subcanopy habitat and riparian.	Food and cover quality somewhat improved by debris removal.	Food and habitat slightly reduced due to debris covering subcanopy habitat and riparian	Food and cover quality somewhat improved by debris removal.
Natural Areas	(FOTG Sec II) none noted	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prime and Unique Farmlands	(FOTG Sec II) Convent and Commerce Silt Loam	Drainage from farmland improved.	Impaired waterway may cause flooding	Drainage from farmland improved
Riparian Areas	Riparian area slightly impacted by debris accumulation	Riparian area slightly improved by debris removal	Riparian area slightly impacted by debris accumulation	Riparian area slightly improved by debris removal
Scenic Beauty	(FOTG Sec II) Not listed	(N/A)	N/A	N/A
Wetlands	Forested wetland adjacent to canal	No affect	Forested wetland adjacent to canal	No affect
Wild and Scenic Rivers	(FOTG Sec II) Not applicable	N/A	N/A	N/A

Completed By: Beth SchreierDate: 04/05/2006

DSR NO: 093-05-004K

**Section 2F Economic**

**This section must be completed by each alternative considered (attach additional sheets as necessary).**

	Future Damages (\$)	Damage Factor (%)	Near Term Damage Reduction
Properties Protected (Private): 375 houses @ 90000	33,750,000.00	25	8,437,500.00
Properties Protected			
Business Losses:			
Other:			
Total Near Term Damage Reduction \$			8,437,500.00
Net Benefit (Total Near Term Damage Reduction minus Cost from Section 3)			

Completed By: Jerry Hall Date: 04/05/2006

**Section 2G Social Consideration This section must be completed by each alternative considered**

(attach additional sheets as necessary).

	YES	NO	Remarks
Has there been a loss of life as a result of the watershed impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not in the immediate area but several deaths attributable to the storm occurred in the Parish
Is there the potential for loss of life due to damages from the watershed impairment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has access to a hospital or medical facility been impaired by watershed impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Has the community as a whole been adversely impacted by the watershed impairment (life and property ceases to operate in a normal capacity)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impairment increased flooding impacts throughout the community
Is there a lack or has there been a reduction of public safety due to watershed impairment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Completed By: Jerry Hall Date: 04/03/2006

DSR NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
093-05-004K

**Section 2H Group Representation and Disability Information**

**This section is completed only for the preferred alternative selected.**

Group Representation	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native Female Hispanic	
American Indian/Alaska Native Female Non-Hispanic	
American Indian/Alaska Native Male Hispanic	
American Indian/Alaska Native Male Non-Hispanic	
Asian Female Hispanic	
Asian Female Non-Hispanic	
Asian Male Hispanic	
Asian Male Non-Hispanic	
Black or African American Female Hispanic	
Black or African American Female Non-Hispanic	326
Black or African American Male Hispanic	
Black or African American Male Non-Hispanic	304
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Female Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Female Non-Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Male Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Male Non-Hispanic	
White Female Hispanic	4
White Female Non-Hispanic	330
White Male Hispanic	4
White Male Non-Hispanic	307
Total Group	1275

Census tract(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Completed By: Jerry Hall Date: 04/05/2006

Section 2I. Required consultation or coordination between the lead agency and/or the RFO and another governmental unit including tribes:

Easements, permissions, or permits:

Access permission will be required (St. James Parish)  
CWA permit prior to construction in channel is needed (COE)  
Water Quality Certification (LDEQ)  
Consistency Authorization (LDNR-CMD)

Four State and/or Federal Species are listed in St. James Parish. Bald Eagle was observed flying over - no nests noted.

Mitigation Description:

Avoid impacts to the channel sides to prevent damage to riparian zone adjacent to channel. Work will be conducted from within the channel. Only new/Katrina caused debris will be removed. No live trees along the channel should be cut. Debris will be disposed of on site. Removal will be done in consecutive days to minimize impacts to local wildlife.

Agencies, persons, and references consulted, or to be consulted:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
LDEQ  
St. James Parish Government  
LDWF  
LDNRCMD



DSR NO: 093-05-004K

#### Section 4 NRCS EWP Funding Priority

Complete the following section to compute the funding priority for the recovery measures in this application (see instructions on page 10).

Priority Ranking Criteria	Yes	No		Ranking Number Plus Modifier
1. Is this an exigency situation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3 E
2. Is this a site where there is serious, but not immediate threat to human life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3. Is this a site where buildings, utilities, or other important infrastructure components are threatened?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. Is this site a funding priority established by the NRCS Chief?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>The following are modifiers for the above criteria</b>			<b>Modifier</b>	
a. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve federally-listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat?				
b. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve cultural sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places?				
c. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve prime or important farmland?				
d. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve existing wetlands?				
a. Will the proposed action or alternatives maintain or improve current water quality conditions?			e	
f. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve unique habitat, including but not limited to, areas inhabited by State-listed species, fish and wildlife management area, or State identified sensitive habitats?				

Enter priority computation in Section 1A, NRCS Entry, Funding priority number.

Remarks:

The proposed action will result in less sedimentation by allowing riparian area to revegetate.

DSR NO: 093-05-004K

### Section 5A Findings

**Finding: Indicate the preferred alternative from Section 2 (Enter to Section 1E):**

The proposed action is the preferred alternative. The proposed action is the least costly alternative that achieves the restoration objectives, maximizes environmental benefits, and is socially acceptable.

*I have considered the effects of the action and the alternatives on the Environmental Economic, Social; the Special Environmental Concerns; and the extraordinary circumstances (40 CFR 1508.27). I find for the reasons stated below, that the preferred alternative:*

- ☒ Has been sufficiently analyzed in the EWP PEIS (reference all that apply)
- Chapter 5.2.2.1.2  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

☐ May require the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.  
The action will be referred to the NRCS State Office on this date:

NRCS representative of the DSR team

Title: DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Date: 4-5-06

### Section 5B Comments:

### Section 5C

### Sponsor Concurrence:

Sponsor Representative

Title: Director of Operations

Date: 4/5/06

### Section 6 Attachments:

- A. Location Map  
B. Site Plan or Sketches  
C. Other (explain)

5.2.2.1.2

TOPO MAP  
DSR 093-05-004K  
Vacherie Canal  
St. James Parish

